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U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
JUN 27 75

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR WASHINGTON



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U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Collaborating with

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY STATE OF WASHINGTON

AS OF
JUNE 1, 1975

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State and private organizations listed inside the back cover of this report.

TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

*Cover Photo: Cabins near Sacajawea Snow Course
in Bridger Mountains, Montana.*

SFS PHOTO 11-P480-15

PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, West Technical Service Center, Room 111, 511 N.W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR WASHINGTON

and
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

Issued by

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

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Report prepared by

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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

State of Washington

June 1, 1975

* Mother Nature has been favorable to the water supply outlook for the *
* state of Washington. The few snow courses that are measured in the *
* state continue to indicate well above normal snow packs, but not as *
* great as was measured last year at this time. Rainfall was below *
* normal throughout most of the state, with the exception of the *
* central area, during the month and accumulated spring rainfall was *
* below normal except in the north central area. Temperatures have *
* been cool this past month which has markedly reduced runoff from most *
* watersheds. Only those watersheds with most of their drainage in the *
* lower elevation zones produced above normal runoff during the month. *
* An additional plus to this cool weather will be the reduction of the *
* forecasted flood stages. Above normal water will be extended thru *
* June and July, but the stages should not be as great as previously *
* anticipated. June 1 reservoir storages mean very little, as most are *
* being controlled for flood control purposes. *

SNOW COVER

Only a few high elevation snow courses are measured on June 1 in the state of Washington, but many more are measured in the tributary basins in British Columbia, Montana and Idaho. All snow courses indicate less water than was measured last year, well above that which was measured in 1973 and generally above average. As always, there are a few exceptions. Comparison of snow courses, as we have done in the past several months, is not a good indicator this late in the season. It would work out for those snow courses at the very high elevations, but at the mid and lower elevations the snow pack fluctuates too greatly around zero and is not indicative of current conditions.

RESERVOIRS

All reservoirs are being managed for flood control purposes. Some with limited outflow, such as Coeur d'Alene Lake, have well above normal amounts of water in storage and even well above capacity. Pure irrigation reservoirs, such as Banks, Salmon and Conconully Reservoirs, have above normal amounts of water in storage and are full or nearly so. Power reservoirs, such as Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lake Chelan, are low but will fill with the spring runoff. The five Yakima Reservoirs have been drafted during these past months, but are now going on storage and will fill by June 15th or 20th.

STREAMFLOW

The streams that were reported to have above normal outflow during May are the ones draining the lower elevations, such as Spokane, Klickitat, Palouse, Walla Walla, Chehalis and Green. Other streams were reported to have less than normal outflows and the Columbia, flowing from the north, had an outflow that was 79 percent of normal at Birchbank, but increased to 97 percent at The Dalles.

PRECIPITATION

Rainfall was generally below normal with only north central and central Washington reporting above average precipitation. The northwest slopes of the Cascades had normal rainfall, while the rest of Washington varied from 14 percent below normal to 5 percent below. In Canada, the Columbia Drainage precipitation was 29 percent below average. These are preliminary figures, as released by the National Weather Service.

RESERVOIR STORAGE - 1000 Acre Feet

BASIN OR STREAM	RESERVOIR	USABLE <u>1/</u> CAPACITY	1975	Measured <u>June 1, 1975</u>		
				1974	1973	Normal*
<u>COLUMBIA</u>						
Spokane	Coeur d'Alene Lake	225.1	326.8	397.7	218.9	299.8
Columbia	Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake	5232.0	600.2	979.0	1808.5	3239.1
Columbia	Banks Lake	761.8	507.5	204.9	112.2	446.7
Okanogan	Conconully Reservoir	13.0	12.1	11.5	10.4	10.4
Okanogan	Salmon Lake	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.1	9.3
Chelan	Lake Chelan	676.1	339.5	390.0	436.7	481.4
<u>YAKIMA</u>						
Yakima	Keechelus Lake	157.8	129.4	114.1	122.9	147.5
Kachess	Kachess Lake	239.0	191.9	196.8	173.1	226.2
Cle Elum	Lake Cle Elum	436.9	336.4	301.5	337.2	387.3
Bumping	Bumping Lake	33.7	16.9	16.6	27.8	27.7
Tieton	Rimrock Lake	198.0	142.7	148.4	131.8	172.0
<u>PUGET SOUND</u>						
Skagit	Ross Reservoir	1404.1	736.8	808.8	1056.3	708.6
Skagit	Diablo Reservoir	90.6	88.8	86.8	87.9	84.8
Skagit	Gorge Reservoir	9.8	9.0	8.9	8.1	-

1/ Based on Active Storage

* 15-year Average 1958-72

PRECIPITATION 1/

Division Averages and Departures

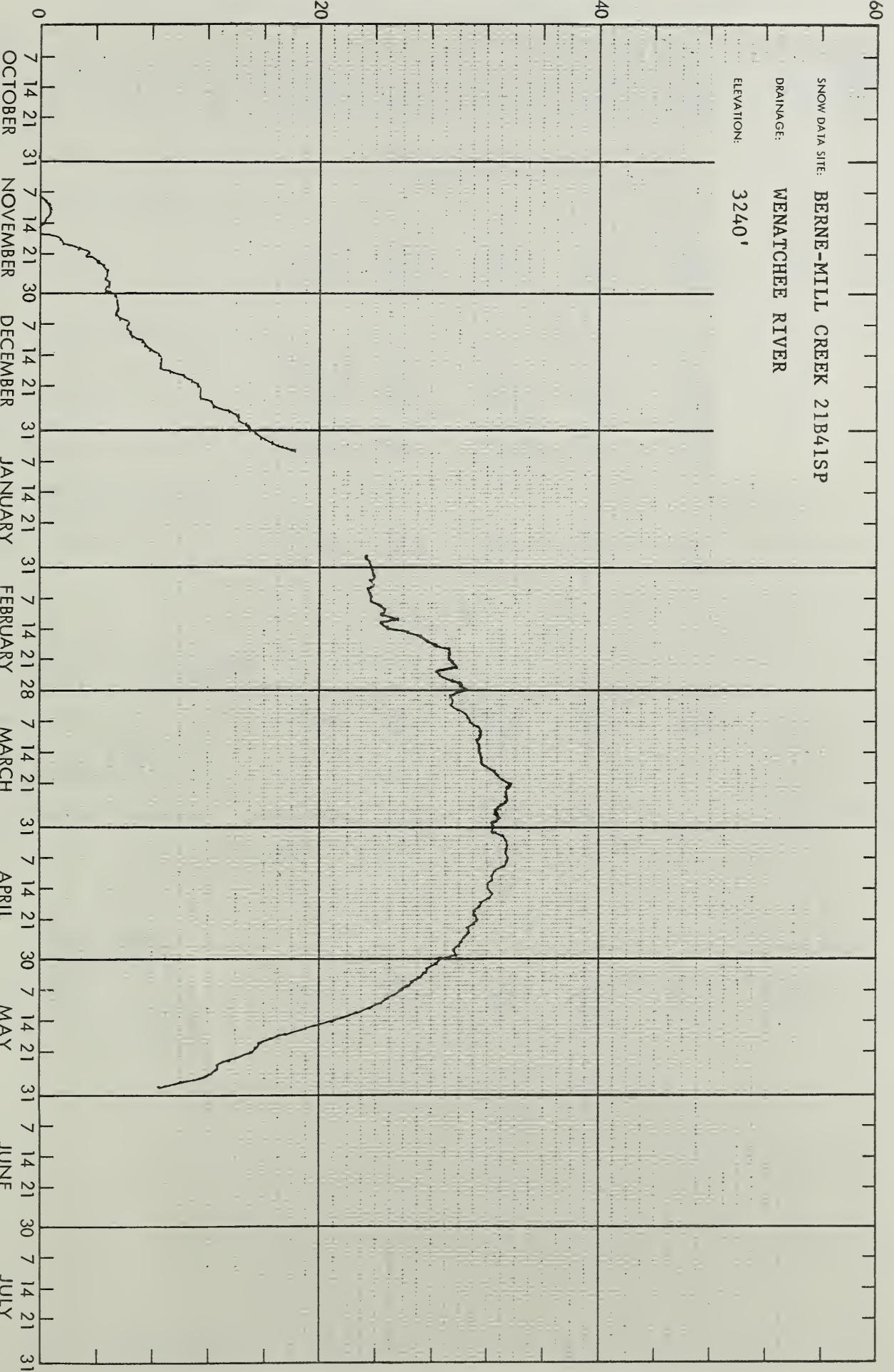
Drainage Divisions	FALL		WINTER		SPRING	
	Sept-Oct Observed	1974 <u>2/</u> Departure	Nov.-1974--Mar.-1975 Observed	Departure	April-May 1975 <u>2/</u> Observed	Departure
Columbia in Canada	1.22	- 3.25	13.42	+ 0.67	1.75	- 1.48
Pend Oreille - Spokane	0.71	- 3.77	21.69	+ 2.99	3.91	- 0.50
Northeastern Washington	0.30	- 2.48	14.78	+ 3.67	2.95	- 0.31
Southeastern Washington	0.31	- 2.92	15.27	+ 1.80	3.14	- 0.52
Central Washington	1.21	- 3.54	31.75	+ 4.22	2.61	- 0.70
North Central Washington	0.37	- 1.25	7.93	+ 1.21	2.50	+ 0.61
Northwest Slope Cascades	3.25	- 9.44	59.41	+ 7.18	8.19	- 1.93
Southwest Slope Cascades	2.49	- 6.19	44.71	+ 3.07	5.28	- 2.02

Northeastern Washington	- Lower Spokane, Colville, Sanpoil and Lower Kettle Drainages.
Southeastern Washington	- Touchet, Tucannon and Palouse Drainages.
Central Washington	- Yakima, Wenatchee and Chelan Drainages.
North Central Washington	- Methow and Okanogan Drainages.
Northwest Slope Cascades	- Puget Sound Drainages.
Southwest Slope Cascades	- Lower Columbia Drainages.

1/ - Preliminary analysis by National Weather Service from data furnished by Meteorological Services of Canada and the National Weather Service.

2/ - Departure from 15-year (1958-72) drainage division average.

INCHES OF WATER IN SNOWPACK



CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS - 1975 SNOW REPORTS - APPENDIX 1

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE			THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
			Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Number	Elevation				Last Year	Average $\frac{1}{2}$

February 1

COWLITZ RIVER

Pigtail Peak	21C33	5900	1/28	135	<u>49.5</u>	60.5	46.7
Potato Hill	21C14	4500	1/28	<u>78</u>	<u>26.3</u>	34.6	23.7

GREEN RIVER

Cougar Mountain SP	21B42SP	3200	<u>1/3</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>8.4</u>	15.2	-
Lester Creek	21B29	3100	11/25	12	<u>3.2</u>	9.1	3.4
Lynn Lake	21B50	4000	11/25	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.3</u>	10.4	-
Snowshoe Butte SP	21B43SP	5000	<u>12/18</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>22.6</u>	-	-

SKOKOMISH RIVER

Home Sweet Home	23B05	5200	1/27	118	<u>45.2</u>	69.0	56.5
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April 1

PEND OREILLE RIVER

Lookout	15B02	5250	<u>3/14</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>36.5</u>	48.2	35.6
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BAKER RIVER

Schreibers Meadow +	21A10A	3400	3/29	<u>176</u>	71.4	104.2	65.6
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May 1

BAKER RIVER

Dock Butte +	21A11A	3800	4/29	<u>176</u>	78.8	106.8	77.4
Schreibers Meadow +	21A10A	3400	4/29	<u>160</u>	73.8	100.4	67.5

Average based on 1958-72 average

+ Snow water equivalent estimated from aerial stadia observation

SNOW DATA TO JUNE 1, 1975 - APPENDIX 2

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE			THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
			Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Number	Elevation				Last Year	Average #

U P P E R C O L U M B I A D R A I N A G EPEND OREILLE RIVER

Baree Creek	15B11	5500	5/15	104	55.6	65.4	42.6
Baree Midway	15B16	4600	5/16	73	38.4	43.2	24.5
Baree Trail	15B15	3800	5/16	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Heart Lake Trail	14C10	4800	5/15	50	23.1	24.6	10.2
			5/30	30	14.4	11.9	1.7
Hoodoo Basin	15C10	6000	5/15	119	57.6	76.2	48.8
			5/30	101	51.2	62.6	34.9
Hoodoo Creek	15C01	5900	5/15	112	54.8	72.3	45.5
			5/30	95	47.6	63.6	33.5
Lookout	15B02	5250	5/15	80	41.0	-	30.9
			5/30	54	28.8	34.2	-
Nelson	19-Can	3050	5/13	12	5.2	2.9	0.8*
			5/29	0	0.0	0.0	0.0*

KETTLE RIVER

Big White Mtn.	154-Can	5500	5/14	50	24.2	28.8	17.8 *
			5/29	34	18.4	25.9	8.8 *
Carmi	126-Can	4100	5/14	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 *
Farron # 1	17-Can	4000	5/15	14	5.4	6.5	- *
Farron # 2	243-Can	4000	5/15	16	6.8	-	- *
Graystoke Lake	5-Can	5950	5/14	45	19.1	29.2	21.1 *
Monashee Pass	48A-Can	4500	5/14	19	8.9	12.1	9.4 *
			6/1	3	1.5	7.5	2.0 *
Old Glory Mtn.	42-Can	7000	5/11	88	39.2	48.1	29.1 *
			5/30	60	30.8	46.1	17.3 *
Trapping Creek Upper	165-Can	4450	5/14	0	0.0	1.4	0.5 *

SPOKANE RIVER

Granite Peak	15B13A	6000	5/29	99	42.1	45.0	-
Lookout	15B02	5250	5/15	80	41.0	-	30.9
			5/30	54	28.8	34.2	-
Lost Lake	15B14A	6000	5/29	125	58.2	83.6	-
Medicine Ridge	15B04A	6150	5/29	100	43.4	52.6	-

OKANOGAN RIVER

Blackwall Peak	100-Can	6250	5/13	79	37.1	51.2	37.6 *
			6/2	50	26.5	49.2	29.1 *
Brenda Mine	193-Can	4800	5/14	7	3.1	5.1	2.9 *
			5/26	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 *

Average based on 1958-72 average

* Average for years of record

SNOW DATA TO JUNE 1, 1975 - APPENDIX 3

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE			THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
			Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Number	Elevation				Last Year	Average [#] / _F

OKANOGAN RIVER (Cont.)

Brookmere	27-Can	3200	5/15	13	5.0	0.6	2.9 *
Enderby	130-Can	6250	5/14	98	43.3	59.0	45.2 *
			5/30	91	42.1	56.0	40.0 *
Esperon Creek Lower	164-Can	4400	5/14	13	5.6	7.5	2.5 *
			5/31	0	0.0	2.4	0.0 *
Esperon Creek Middle	163-Can	4700	5/14	23	11.1	13.2	4.9 *
			5/31	0	0.0	5.0	0.0 *
Esperon Creek Upper	162-Can	5400	5/14	44	22.2	24.6	9.8 *
			5/31	27	14.0	19.3	5.9 *
Graystoke Lake	5-Can	5950	5/14	45	19.1	29.2	21.1 *
Hamilton Hill	107-Can	4900	5/13	23	10.3	10.7	6.5 *
Isintok Lake	152-Can	5510	5/11	21	7.8	10.2	4.8 *
			5/29	4	1.5	7.0	- *
Lost Horse Mountain	105-Can	6300	5/16	27	9.6	15.6	10.3 *
			5/30	16	6.5	-	4.2 *
McCulloch	4-Can	4200	5/14	0	0.0	0.2	0.6 *
Missezula Mountain	106-Can	5100	5/14	16	6.4	7.2	1.9 *
Mission Creek	5A-Can	6000	5/14	51	21.3	30.9	19.1 *
			5/29	41	20.0	29.4	11.4 *
Monashee Pass	48A-Can	4500	5/14	19	8.9	12.1	9.4 *
			6/1	3	1.5	7.5	2.0 *
Mount Kobau	156-Can	5950	5/14	38	14.1	20.2	10.0 *
			5/30	21	8.3	19.2	2.0 *
New Penticton Res. # 2	183-Can	5225	5/15	24	8.5	10.0	7.3 *
			5/31	4	1.4	6.1	- *
Silver Star Mountain	99-Can	6050	5/12	65	32.6	41.5	26.0 *
			6/1	44	25.6	38.6	15.5 *
Summerland Reservoir	3A-Can	4200	5/11	18	8.1	3.0	2.3 *
			5/27	2	1.0	0.0	- *
Trout Creek	3-Can	4700	5/12	14	5.4	4.4	1.7 *
Vaseux Creek	233-Can	4600	5/14	0	0.0	0.8	0.5 *
White Rocks Mountain	70-Can	6000	5/15	54	26.3	38.1	20.8 *
			6/2	41	21.2	33.4	- *

ENTIAT RIVER

Blue Creek G. S.	20B28a	5425	5/29	77	41.6	46.6	-
Entiat Meadows +	20A33a	4800	5/29	68	36.7	46.6	-
Entiat River Trail +	20A34a	3150	5/29	0	0.0	-	-
Four Mile Ridge +	20B27a	7000	5/29	65	35.1	44.4	-
Fox Camp +	20A36a	6510	5/29	142	76.7	84.4	-
Pope Ridge	20B20	4300	5/29	0	0.0	-	-
Pugh Ridge +	20A32a	6400	5/29	61	32.9	51.6	-
Shady Pass	20A37	5000	5/29	36	19.6	32.7	-
Snow Brushy +	20A35a	3850	5/29	45	24.3	25.0	-
Tommy Creek +	20B21a	5300	5/29	12	6.5	15.5	-

Average based on 1958-72 average

* Average for years of record

+ Snow water equivalent estimated from aerial stadia observation.

SNOW DATA TO JUNE 1, 1975 - APPENDIX 4

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE			THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
			Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	
NAME	Number	Elevation				Last Year	Average [#] / _F

CHELAN LAKE BASIN

Little Meadows +	20A24a	5275	5/15	110	52.8	-	-
Lyman Lake	20A23A	5900	5/15	150	72.0	-	-
Park Creek Ridge	20A12A	4600	5/15	97	46.6	-	-

WENATCHEE RIVER

Stevens Pass	21B01	4070	5/15	121	56.7	77.2	48.3
			5/29	108	59.4	70.1	36.5
Stevens Pass Sand Shed	21B45	3700	5/15	71	34.1	53.4	-
			5/29	55	30.2	40.8	-

YAKIMA RIVER

Bumping Lake	21C08	3450	5/15	11	5.0	9.8	1.8
			5/30	0	0.0	0.0	-
Bumping Lake New	21C36	3400	5/15	23	11.1	17.6	-
			5/30	0	0.0	0.0	-
Stampede Pass SP	21B10	3860	5/14	-	47.1	68.6	33.6
			6/2	-	41.2	70.4	18.8
Tunnel Avenue	21B08	2450	5/15	42	19.2	17.9	7.9
			5/30	13	6.3	5.6	-
White Pass (E. Side)	21C28	4500	5/15	65	31.7	38.1	21.2
			5/30	44	21.6	34.6	13.6

LOWER COLUMBIA DRAINAGECOWLITZ RIVER

White Pass (E. Side)	21C28	4500	5/15	65	31.7	38.1	21.2
			5/30	44	21.6	34.6	13.6

PUGET SOUND DRAINAGEGREEN RIVER

Stampede Pass SP	21B10	3860	5/14	-	47.1	68.6	33.6
			6/2	-	41.2	70.4	18.8

SKYKOMISH RIVER

Stevens Pass	21B01	4070	5/15	121	56.7	77.2	48.3
			5/29	108	59.4	70.1	36.5
Stevens Pass Sand Shed	21B45	3700	5/15	71	34.1	53.4	-
			5/29	55	30.2	40.8	-

Average based on 1958-72 average

+ Snow water equivalent estimated from aerial stadia observation

SNOW DATA TO JUNE 1, 1975 - APPENDIX 5

SNOW			THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD		
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE			Date of Survey	Snow Depth (inches)	Water Content (inches)	Water Content (inches)		
NAME	Number	Elevation				Last Year	Average $\frac{+}{\#}$	
<u>BAKER RIVER</u>								
Baker Pass +	21A27a	4900	5/13	204	102.0	159.0	-	
			5/27	186	102.0	-	-	
Dock Butte	21A11A	3800	5/13	145	73.0	110.0	72.7	
			5/27	134	74.0	-	58.0	
Easy Pass	21A07A	5200	5/13	188	94.0	141.0	90.2	
			5/27	170	93.0	-	73.6	
Jasper Pass	21A06A	5400	5/13	206	103.0	155.0	114.7	
			5/27	210	115.0	-	84.2	
Marten Lake	21A09A	3600	5/13	168	84.0	132.0	81.3	
			5/27	152	84.0	-	66.2	
Mount Blum +	21A18a	5800	5/13	172	86.0	116.0	-	
			5/27	169	93.0	-	-	
Rocky Creek	21A12A	2100	5/13	53	27.0	31.0	12.1	
			5/27	10	5.0	-	-	
Schreibers Meadow	21A10A	3400	5/13	110	55.0	97.0	61.7	
			5/27	112	62.0	-	48.6	
S. F. Thunder Creek	21A14A	2200	5/13	Not Measured		0.0	0.0	
			5/27	0	0.0	-	-	
Watson Lakes	21A08A	4500	5/13	120	60.0	108.0	73.5	
			5/27	144	79.0	-	61.4	

Average based on 1958-72 average

+ Snow water equivalent estimated from aerial stadia observation

Agencies Assisting with Snow Surveys

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Canada:

Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources,
Water Resources Service, British Columbia

States:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Federal:

Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
U. S. Department of Commerce
NOAA, National Weather Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Bonneville Power Administration
Bureau of Reclamation
Geological Survey
National Park Service

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UTILITIES

Chelan County P.U.D.
Pacific Power and Light Company
Puget Sound Power and Light Company
Washington Water Power Company

OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

Okanogan Irrigation District
Wenatchee Heights Irrigation District

MUNICIPALITIES

City of Tacoma
City of Seattle

Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for snow survey reports. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

**FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE
COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS**

Furnishes the basic data
necessary for forecasting
water supply for irrigation,
domestic and municipal water
supply, hydro-electric power
generation, navigation,
mining and industry

*"The Conservation of Water begins
with the Snow Survey"*